

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A process for the reduction of a residual monomer content and enhancement of a wet strength of articles formed from water absorbent crosslinked polymer foams containing units derived from monoethylenically unsaturated acids, which comprises ~~treating the formed articles with~~ applying at least 0.5% by weight of a polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups and having a molar mass of at least 300 to the water-absorbent crosslinked polymer foams.

2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is used in an amount of 0.5% to 80%, by weight.

3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is a polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino ~~and/or ammonium~~ groups and having a molar mass from 500 to 5 million.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar mass of the polymer bearing amino groups is from 1000 to 100,000.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer bearing amino groups comprises polymers containing vinylamine units, polyethyleneimines, polyvinyl guanidine, lysine condensates, and/or polyallylamines.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the formed foam articles comprise water-absorbent crosslinked polymers of acrylic acid.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimines, crosslinked polyethyleneimines, and amidated polyethyleneimines having molar masses  $M_w$  of from 500 to 3,000,000.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of vinylamine homopolymers, 1-99% hydrolyzed polyvinylformamides, copolymers of vinylformamide and vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol, vinylpyrrolidone, and acrylamide, each having molar masses  $M_w$  of 3000-2,000,000.

9. (Previously presented) An article formed from a water-absorbent crosslinked polymer foam containing units derived from monoethylenically unsaturated acids, and obtainable by the process of claim 1.

10. (Previously presented) The article of claim 9 wherein the article comprises a hygiene article.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is used in an amount from 1% to 20%, by weight.

12. (Previously presented) The article of claim 9 wherein the hygiene article is selected from the group consisting of an infant diaper, an incontinence product, a femcare article, a wound contact material, and a secondary wound dressing.